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1. T6: Innovative Technologies and Approaches for Space

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

This topic seeks research and technology development that can directly support the NASA Space Technology Roadmap (STR) and Space Technology Grand Challenges. The long-term goal is to advance the technologies that will be needed to achieve the NASA mission objectives as outlined in the National Space Policy. The efforts of this STTR topic in 2011 will focus on two specific areas: - Affordable and Sustainable Crew Support and Protection. - Active Debris Removal Technologies.

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2. T6.01: Affordable and Sustainable Crew Support and Protection

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

This STTR sub-topic seeks to advance the state-of-the-art in spacecraft life support, thermal control, extra-vehicular activity and habitation systems, leading toward the ability to sustain a crew in space for years with minimal supplies launched from Earth. Atmosphere, water and waste all need to be regenerated with highly reliable systems to reduce or eliminate the need to launch parts and supplies to maintain the systems. The crew must also be protected from the dangers of the deep space environment. During extra-vehicular activity, this poses additional difficulties.

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3. T6.02: Active Debris Removal Technologies

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

After more than 50 years of human space activities, orbital debris has become a problem in the near-Earth environment. The total mass of debris in orbit is close to 6000 tons at present. The U.S. Space Surveillance Network is currently tracking more than 22,000 objects larger than about 10 cm. Additional optical and radar data indicate that there are approximately 500,000 debris larger than 1 cm, and more than 100 million debris larger than 1 mm in the environment.

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4. T7: Ground Effects of Launch Acoustics, Payload Integration, and Flexible Polymer Foam Systems

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

Kennedy Space Center (KSC) is seeking innovative solutions to improve ground systems operations. This topic highlights three areas that KSC has a vested interest. These include: improved performance of materials for cryogenic insulation, fireproofing, energy absorption, and other aerospace applications; methodologies for verification and validation of software that simulates ground effects of laun ...

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5. T7.01: Ground Effects of Launch Acoustics

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

The exhaust plume from a launch vehicle rocket engine generates severe acoustic waves, which cause acoustic loading on the ground structures and vehicle payload. Prediction and reduction of the acoustic levels in the near field of launch vehicle lift-off is an important factor that should be taken into consideration early in the design process of the space launch complex.

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6. T8: Autonomous Systems

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

Autonomous and robotic systems are a critical capability in all of NASA's mission areas including Aeronautics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Human Spaceflight and will be more pervasive in the future. Current systems are primarily automated, able to respond to a predicted set of conditions and require human interaction and control.

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7. T8.01: Autonomous Multi-Robotic Systems

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

Current NASA research/development and mission capabilities are primarily focused on single, automated robotic systems. For example, exploration of remote planetary surfaces has used single automated Telerobotic vehicles, dependent on human control, which limits the area covered, scope of mission and risk of a single point mission failure.

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8. T8.02: Autonomous Systems for Atmospheric Flight and Remote Sensing

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

Increasing levels of automation capabilities in the aviation arena, provides unique opportunities and challenges for civil aviation, and the aerial transport communities. Flight will be transformed as these capabilities mature and evolve in to integrated systems. In particular, autonomous and robotic, manned and unmanned civil aircraft systems will lead to a plethora of new markets, vehicle, and missions. These new systems with broad range of capabilities, and a huge diversity of shapes and sizes, must safely utilize the future National Airspace System.

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9. T8.03: Autonomous Navigation in GNSS-Denied Environments

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

Current NASA research/development and mission capabilities for exploration of remote planetary surfaces are primarily focused on automated telerobotic systems dependent on human control. More fully autonomous systems will be required for future missions, particularly where communications with Earth may be limited, unavailable for extended periods of time and have significant delays.

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10. <u>T9: Technologies for Human and Robotic Space Exploration Propulsion Design and Manufacturing</u>

Release Date: 07-18-2011Open Date: 07-18-2011Due Date: 09-08-2011Close Date: 09-08-2011

Achieving NASA's exploration goals will hinge on continued development of improved capabilities in propulsion system design and manufacturing techniques. NASA is interested in innovative design and manufacturing technologies that enable sustained and affordable human and robotic exploration of the solar system. The development of and operation of these propulsion systems will benefit greatly from improvements in design and analysis tools and from improvements in manufacturing capabilities

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